

## Country Overview

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) extended the nation-wide shutdown to 5 May. More than 200 doctors and 73 policemen are reportedly infected. The government is importing mass quantities of personal protection equipment in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

The public's adherence to government restrictions remains a challenge as day labourers and others leave their homes to earn cash to feed their families. On 18 April, 100,000 people defied lockdown orders to gather for the funeral of a senior Islamist political leader.

The GoB approved World Vision Bangladesh's country-wide response plan, which includes a strong focus on the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Our response will aim to slow the transmission of COVID-19, supporting up to 2.5 million vulnerable people (567,000 households) in our current programme areas. Officially launched on 19 April, World Vision will initiate its response as soon as the lock-down restrictions permit.

## Gaps and Challenges

Closed government offices and business lock downs (suppliers, vendors) has hampered our programme implementation.

No cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the Rohingya refugee camp to date. In the host community, local media is fueling stigma against COVID-19 patients by publishing their names and misinformation about how the disease is spread.



“We cannot go out and we are always scared of coronavirus. How long will we have to stay like this?”

-Tania, age 7, a sponsored child

## Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

World Vision contributed to the GoB's COVID-19 Bangladesh: Multi-sectorial Anticipatory Impact and Needs Analysis that projects far-reaching social and economic implications, especially for imports and exports related to the readymade garment industry on which Bangladesh relies heavily from income and employment. (See more details on page 3.)

World Vision staff are monitoring the health and safety of the 150,000 registered children in its community development programmes. Parents/guardians are being contacted via mobile phone to check on children's health and convey COVID-19 prevention messages.

## Advocacy

The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh issued a briefing note on 18 April to elicit a policy response regarding the challenges faced by non-state development actors in undertaking coronavirus-related activities. The platform, representing 100 organisations, of which World Vision is a member, demanded urgent policy attention for pursuing an effective anti-COVID-19 response. World Vision produced prevention information for children and parents that was endorsed by the Social Services Departments and Child Helpline 1098.

## Number of Cases (as of 23 April)

4,186 cases, 127 deaths and 108 recoveries officially reported in this country of 165 million people.

Source: Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, Bangladesh



# COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights



**913,041**

beneficiaries reached to date

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Promote preventative measures to stop or slow COVID-19 spread



**454,794**

children reached

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Provide children and families with multi-sector support



**USD10 million**

targeted budget

**OBJECTIVE 4:** Collaborate and advocate to ensure vulnerable children are protected



**607,654**

people reached with prevention hygiene information.



**1,219**

community handwashing stations established, maintained.



**77,714**

information/education materials printed, distributed.



**1,156**

faith leaders engaged to disseminate prevention measures, create hope.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Support health systems and workers



**778**

community health workers trained, supported to provide services.



**460**

masks distributed.



**53,903**

people, children and families reached with psychosocial support.



**USD999,298**

value of cash/vouchers distributed.



**25,826**

households receiving cash disbursements/vouchers.



**6,952**

food packages provided.



**27,586**

new children reached with targeted age-specific health education.



**717**

peoples supported to continue child's education remotely (eg. home-learning materials, activity packs).



**93,290**

children supported with child protection programming.



**4**

World Vision reports highlighted and referenced by stakeholders



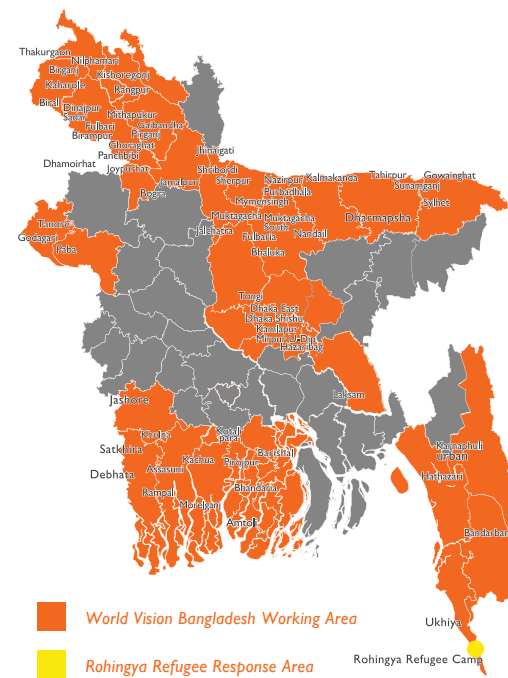
**14**

strategic partnerships with stakeholders established



**22**

clusters and inter-agency coordination platforms attended or led







## Area Programmes

Key findings from the *COVID-19 Bangladesh: Multi-sectoral Anticipatory Impact and Needs Analysis*.



61% of respondents know who to contact if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

83% of respondents reported experiencing mental stress.



Female headed households are identified as facing the greatest challenges in meeting their daily needs.

50% identified that safety and security of girls was an issue in the lockdown.



75% respondents mentioned insufficient food access at home.

91% don't have sufficient money to buy food.



62% of households indicated that children are staying at home.

42% of respondents indicated that beating by parents of guardians had increased.

## Rohingya Refugee Response/ Cox's Bazar Special Zone



469 World Vision staff and facilitators continue to provide critical services across the camp housing 1 million Rohingya Muslims. Activities are restricted to food assistance, nutrition, WASH and case management of protection incidents for children and vulnerable adults.



More than 57, 926 households have been reached with prevention information via audio messages in Rohingya, as well as printed materials, house-to-house sessions and small groups conducted by partner religious leaders.



We are prepared to scale up and are well-positioned for longer term COVID-19 response given our 1,600 staff, as well as volunteers and trusted local partners. Our current emergency and development programme footprint covers most of the 34 Rohingya camps and all 10 host community unions in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

## Nobo Jatra—New Beginning USAID's Development Food Security Activity



World Vision ensured that monthly cash transfers (via e-wallets linked to mobile phones) continued to reach 5,000 pregnant and lactating women. Mothers use the cash to buy vegetables, fish, meat and eggs so that their families can eat nutritious meals and stay as healthy as possible.



Health awareness messages were disseminated to 2,299 pregnant women via pre-programmed audio bangles.



40,000 leaflets and 10,000 posters on COVID-19 prevention were distributed in 1,115 government health service delivery points and across communities.



40 World Vision-supported union disaster management committees, including youth volunteers, are using megaphones to share public announcements on COVID-19 prevention.



As a result of growing awareness, some communities are using their own resources to install hand-washing stations with soap at 978 World Vision-supported water points.

### For more information, contact

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